Copy of Army HQ letter No 51991/1/AG/PS-8 dated 2 MAR 56 addressed to all Commands.

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Subject:- COLOURS

INTRODUCTION

1 On the declaration of India as a Republic, the King's Colours were laid up at the Military College, DEHRADUN, in Nov 1950. This left Regimental Colours/Standards/Guidons with the units but these still bear foreign devices and insignias which are inappropriate in the changed constitutional status of the country. Consequnetly, recommendations for the replacement of King's Colours by the President's Colours and Regimental Colours/Standards/Guidons by new ones were submitted to the Government for approval. The policy, approved by the President, regarding Colours, entitlements and their design, is given in the succeeding paragraphs.

COLOURS

2 There will be no President's Colour in lieu of the King's Colour. There will be only one type of Colour, ie, the Regimental Colour/Standard/Guidon. The existing Regimental Colours/Standards/Guidons will be laid up, on being replaced by new ones, in unit Messes/ Quarter Guards as a link with their past tradition.

ENTITLEMENT

3 The following will be entitled to this honour :-

(a) Regimental Colours

(i) All infantry battalions including Rifle battalions

(ii) All Infantry Regimental Centres already in possession of Regimental Colours.

(iii) Military College DEHRADUN

(iv) All Corps, except the Regiment of Artillery. Only one Regimental Colour will be authorised for the Corps as a whole to be kept at a selected Corps centre.

(b) Standards

All Armoured Corps regiments already in possession of standards.

(c) Guidons

All Armoured Corps regiments, other than in (b) above. A guidon may be upgraded to a standard on grounds of meritorious services rendered by a unit since 15 AUG 47, if approved by the President.

DESIGN AND SUPERSCRIPTIONS

4 General shape and design of the new Regimental Colour/Standard/Guidon will be the same as for the existing one they replace with suprescriptions embroidered as detailed below :-

(a) New approved Regiment/Corps badge device embroidered in the centre.

(b) A single wreath composed of Ashoka Leaves and lotus flowers embroidered round the badge.

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(c) The name of a Regiment/Corps embroidered on a scroll below the wreath. In the case of Infantry, the serial number of the battalion will be below the scroll.

(d) Motto, if any, embroidered along with the badge device, if desired by the Regiment/Corps.

Mottos indicating connection with the British Crown will be substituted after approval by suitable Indian mottoes, preferably in Devnagri script. There is, however, no objection to the English mottoes, already approved, continuing in English for the present. In some cases, therefore, a mixture of English and Devnagri Characters may be unavoidable.

(e) All earned battle honours, except any that are particularly repugnant to Indian sentiments, will be inscribed on the new colours.

PRESIDENT's AWARD

5 For special meritorious service, both active and non-active, rendered by units since 15 AUG 1947, the President may award a specific insignia for inclusion in the new Regimental Colours/Standards. This Presidential award will take the form of an elephant, as inscribed on the personal standard of the President, and will be embroidered in gold on a vermilion backgrpund surrounded by a ten-pointed star in gold embroidery.

PROVISION

6 After individual designs of Colours/Standards/Guidons for each unit have been finalised, they will be manufactured and issued by the Ordnance, who will use indigenous silk, or hand woven silk should it be found suitable.

PROPOSALS

7 It will now be necessary for all units to initiate proposals for the revision of their existing Regimental Colours/Standards/Guidons and also for fresh awards of new Regimental Colours/Guidons for those who are not now in possession of them. The proposals, duly supported by the following documents, will be forwarded, together with your recommendations on para 4(c) above, to this Headquarters by 31 AUG 56 :-

(a) A photo-stat copy (4¾" x 6½") of the existing Colours together with a brief history of the unit stating how, when and where the Colours were awarded. The background colour of the Colours should also be stated thereon.

(b) Brief history of the unit entitled to a fresh award of a Regimental Colour/Guidon.

(c) Motto, if any, desired to be inscribed on the new Colours.

(d) Colour of the facing of the Regiment/Corps.

(e) List of all earned battle honours in order of seniority together with brief history of action for which awarded.

NOTE : A separate directive is being issued by this HQ regarding grant of Battle Honours for World War II. Such grants will, however, take some time. Grant of honours for service after 15 AUG 47 is also under examination.

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